MINUTES

Committee on Best Practices in Northampton Decision Making of Dec. 3, 2008.

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM in the BPW Board Room at the DPW.

Present were committee members Jim Palermo, Wendy Foxmyn, David Narkewicz, Alex Ghiselin, Michael Bardsley, and Bob Reckman. Lisa DePiano was not present. Members of the public present were Adam Cohen, Ken Mitchell and Jesus Leyva. Adam left shortly after the meeting began and Ken took care of the videotaping.

Wendy was delegated to propose an agenda. She proposed that we deal with the draft report, its compiliation, our presentation to the CC tomorrow night, our public relations plan and the public forum that we have planned.

The minutes of our meeting of Nov. 19 were approved.

David discussed the draft recommendations. We decided that he would walk us through them line by line. Alex proposed and we agreed that we would first talk about the missing item concerning the City Council and its activities. We agreed on the title of the item and the bullet points that would follow. David took careful notes on the exact language for this recommendation.

We talked about the draft recommendations that David and Wendy had combined and distributed.   We made minor changes to improve some of the language in the introduction.   We then discussed our specific recommendations one at a time and made minor changes to many of them.

We agreed that tomorrow night Jim, Wendy and Alex would offer a brief report to the Council. David will prepare copies for Council members and the Mayor. We will also have copies for the press and the public. Wendy, Jim and Alex will identify the 10 recommendation headings and talk about the public forum on Jan. 5. Jim had to leave at 7 PM.

We will meet on Jan. 8 at the DPW at 6 PM. Bob will arrange for the room and the official posting. Bob and Alex will plan the public forum and meet on Dec. 29 at 8:30 in the Council Chambers. Other members of the committee are welcome to attend if they choose.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Bob Reckman